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A Shaker Melody for Two Violins, Viola, Cello

Title: *A Shaker Melody*

Origin: United States

Key: D major

Metre: 4/4

Rhythms: 

Skill Level: Violin I: Level 2 Violin II: Level 2/3

Duration: 3:00

About the Music: This melody originates with the **Shakers**, known formally as 'The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing'. This sect reached its peak from 1830 and 1850, with approximately 6,000 members. It was centered in **New England**, in the USA. The hymn is known variously as **Simple Gifts**, **Lord of the Dance**, and the theme of Aaron Copeland's **Appalachian Spring**. It can evoke both distant longing and celebration.

Performance Suggestions

- The arrangement works well as a violin DUET, an ENSEMBLE, or QUARTET.
- The opening should be distant-sounding, and wistful.
- The tempo change at letter C should be abrupt, and done very confidently.
- At letter D, Violin I should dominate.
- The conclusion requires some real musicianship.

Pedagogy: Violin Skill equivalent to Suzuki Vol.

- First position.
- Rubato, fermata.
- Surprise repeat.
- Fiddle-sound at **D**
- Forte/ Piano/ pianissimo/ cresc./ decresc.
- Tempo change.
- Violin II requires bowing dexterity and independent rhythm.